

EXTRAORDINARY IDEAS FROM PAST WALK TO SCHOOL DAYS

Creighton Middle School students from Columbia, South Carolina created and designed a brochure to promote walking in their community.

Johnson Elementary from Kingsport, Tennessee tied yellow and red balloons to sandbags, creating a walking path through town.

Finley Elementary School students from Rock Hill, South Carolina held a walking contest. Whichever class walked the equivalent of 25 miles was awarded a trip to the Charlotte Douglas Airport located exactly 25 miles away. In a sense, it was like walking to the airport.

Wellford Elementary School students in Wellford, South Carolina learned about the solar system during their walk. The solar system was “set up” along the walk so students could learn where and how far away planets are from each other.

In Elgin, South Carolina, Bookman Road Elementary students walked with their favorite high school football players.

The safest walking route to Bonita Elementary School in Bonita Springs, Florida was painted with 2.5 miles of paw prints.

At Alice Brown Elementary in Langley, British Columbia, coordinators used the event to encourage the use of drop off zones, which are located one block from school. The amount of traffic in front of the school was reduced from 90 to 19 cars per day.

During this walk, community leaders in Bellview, Florida staged some hazardous pedestrian safety situations to see how the kids from Bellview Elementary would handle them.

In Oroville, California local GIS experts brought street maps into classrooms so that kids could help design safe routes to school.

Sylvania Heights Elementary students created signs in the shapes of regular traffic signs for their walk in West Miami, Florida.

In Tempe, Arizona a tree-planting event was held in conjunction with the walk.

At East Elementary in Dillon, South Carolina the PE teacher played the song “Walking on Sunshine” over the PA system to get the students excited about walking. During gym class, the students got to walk like their favorite animals and participate in walking relay races.

At Indian Creek Elementary in Clarkston, Georgia the kids carried pedestrian safety signs written in their native languages. This school also honored their 30-year crossing guard and police officer.

Kids at Queen Mary Elementary in Vancouver, British Columbia drew the “longest hopscotch in the world” and they played it on their way home.

In North Delta, British Columbia, two teachers walked 27 kilometers to school to challenge their students to participate in their school's event.

At Olanta Elementary School in Olanta, South Carolina, students wrote letters to their community leaders, inviting them to participate in the walk.

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At Palm Bay Elementary in Palm Bay, Florida the students made up a walking cadence and then sang it during their walk. The lyrics are as follows:

"Woke up this morning and brushed our teeth,
Put our shoes on both our feet,
We are on our way to school,
Mr./Mrs. (teacher's name) thinks I'm cool,
Walking is good for the heart,
We go to school to get smart,
We are walking to school today,
Picking up everyone on the way,
Character counts at PBE,
Treat everyone with civility,
Please and thank you are words we use,
To show respect and share good news."

At Woodward Elementary in Florida, students learned how to properly use a pedestrian crossing signal when a Volusia County Traffic Safety engineer set up a pedestrian signal demonstration in their PE class.

In Los Angeles (300 regional schools), children were given "walk diaries" to keep track of how many times they used walking as a form of transportation in the month of October. At the end of the month, children sent in their diaries for a chance to win prizes.

At Richmond Elementary in Appleton, Wisconsin they incorporated a contest where each of the kids could donate a quarter to win the honor of being able to walk to school with either the school principal or another community figure. The proceeds from the collection went to the Safety Patrol Budget.